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**IMAM KHOMEINI, POPE
and
CHRISTIANITY**



Islamic Propagation Organization



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The Publisher's Note

Say: O people of the scripture! Come to an agreement between us and you: that we shall worship none but Allah, and that we shall ascribe no partner unto Him, and that none of us shall take others for lords beside Allah...

Holy Quran III,64

According to this holy verse as well as the Islamic Republic's Constitutional law, the Islamic Republic of Iran not only respects legally-recognized religious minorities living on its soil, and regards their legitimate human rights, but indeed respects all followers of divine religions all over the world. In fact, Christianity, minus colonial policies and Judaism minus Zionism are dearly revered by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The messages of the great leader of the Revolution, Imam Khomeini, to the world's Christians and the Pope are concrete proofs clarifying the Islamic Republic's stance in this connection.

We, therefore, in order to shed further light on the Revolution's stand on this matter for the

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world's Christians, are happy to publish these messages.

Islamic Propagation Organization
The International Relations Dept.

**IMAM KHOMEINI'S MESSAGE TO THE NOBLE
CHRISTIAN PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ON THE
OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS**

In the Name of God
the Merciful, the Compassionate

May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Jesus—the son of Mariam the great Prophet who revived the dead and awakened the unaware.

May God's blessings and praises be upon his holy mother—Hazrat Mariam— the Virgin Mary—who through the Divine spirit gave a great son to those who were thirsty for Divine Mercy.

Greetings to the noble Christian clergy who, inspired by the holy teachings of Jesus Christ try to pacify their souls. Praises to the noble Christian nation who enjoy the Divine teachings of Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the oppressed people of Iran, I ask you, the Christian people, to pray for our people who are suffering from the despotic tyrant on your holy days and ask Allah for their emancipation. I ask you the great Christian nation to warn the heads of some Christian countries helping the tyrannical shah with their satanic powers in

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crushing a whole nation under oppression, and to acquaint them with the teachings of Jesus Christ. I ask the Christian clergy to advise the heads of some powerful countries and to denounce their support of the one who has always acted against Divine precepts. The Holy Quran has lauded Jesus Christ for his greatness and referred to Hazrat Mariam as a purified being. It is the duty of the Christian nation to pay what they owe the Moslems. Peace be upon you,

Ruhollah Al-Musavi Al-Khomeini
December 23, 1978

**IMAM KHOMEINI'S MESSAGE TO THE NOBLE
CHRISTIAN PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ON THE
OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS**

In the Name of God
the Merciful, the Compassionate

*O ye who believe! Always stand up for God,
bearing witness with justice, and let not hatred of a
people incite you not to act equitably. Act ye
equitably that is nearer to piety. Fear ye God.
Verily God is aware of what ye do. (5:8)*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for
justice, for they shall be filled. (Matthew,5)*

*Blessed are those who endeavour for justice for
theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew,5)*

On the blessed occasion of Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, the most respected Prophet who was appointed by God to support the oppressed and establish justice and mercy and through his divinely inspired words and angelic deeds, condemn oppressors and tyrants and support the oppressed, deprived and abased people, I offer my greetings to all of the oppressed nations of the world, Christian nations and Christians of Iran and the rest of the world.

Fathers of the Church, Christian clergy,

followers of Jesus Christ arise! Rise up and support the oppressed and deprived people of the world who have been seized by the claws of the arrogant. Let your church bells for once ring for the oppressed people of Iran and for the denunciation of the oppressors so that God's will be done and the edicts of Jesus Christ be obeyed.

Carter, the leader of the oppressors of the world, has demanded that church bells throughout America, ring for the sake of spies against the oppressed people of Iran. It would be appropriate if you rang the church bells by the command of God and the edict of Jesus Christ for the deprived nations whose existence has fallen under the boots of Carter's executioners.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, who are trying to establish justice. Woe be unto those who, contrary to the edicts of Jesus Christ and all the prophets, labor on behalf of the oppressors and spies and trample on the rights of nations.

Nations and disciples of Jesus Christ, the spirit of God, arise! Rise and defend the honor of Jesus Christ and Christian nations. Do not allow your enemies to misuse the divine teachings and oppose heavenly decrees and misrepresent Christian nations and Christian spiritual leaders to the oppressed nations of the world.

Do not be deceived by the presence of the superpowers in churches and their praying for spies and traitors, who oppose the oppressed and deprived peoples. Their only thought is greater power and attaining leadership of the world which

is in contrast to the divine teachings. Our nation has for years suffered anguish from the hypocrisy of oppressors.

Nations of Christ! Ask yourselves why it is that Mr. Carter did not pray and did not ask that church bells ring for the massacres in Iran, Vietnam, Palestine and Lebanon and other areas? But now, in order to be re-elected as President of the U.S. and in order to continue several more years of oppression against weaker nations, he prays and asks that the church bells ring out.

Fathers of the Church, rise! Rise and release Jesus Christ from the claws of these executioners because that great prophet resents the oppressor who uses religion as a means of oppression, who prays to ascend to the throne of oppression, who oppresses humanity. All divine teachings, descended from Heaven, are to save the oppressed peoples.

All deprived people of the world, arise! Rise and unite. Push the oppressors off the stage because the earth belongs to God and the deprived are its inheritors.

American people! Do not listen to the propaganda of presidents because their only thought is to attain power. Rest assured that our youth treat the spies fairly because Islam commands one to have mercy upon captives, even if they are oppressors or spies.

American people! Demand Carter to hand over the criminal, the deposed shah, to Iran. He is the key to the release of the spies. Christians! Pray and ring your church bells and ask God to render your presidents with justice and equity. Blessed are

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those who seek and pray for justice.
Peace be upon you, and the Mercy and Blessings of
God.

Ruhollah Al-Musavi Al-Khomeini
December 23, 1979

**IMAM KHOMEINI'S ADDRESS TO THE SIX
CHRISTIAN PRIESTS WHO HAD COME TO
IRAN TO VISIT THE HOSTAGES**

In the Name of God,
the Merciful, the Compassionate

Greetings to all the oppressed nations of the world, the Christian nations, and our Christian compatriots on the occasion of Christmas. Everything relating to Jesus Christ was a miracle. It was a miracle that he was born of a virgin mother. It was a miracle that he spoke in his cradle. It was a miracle that he brought humanity peace, happiness and spirituality. All the prophets were miracles, and they came to shape humanity. They all want humanity to take the straight, divine path, and everyone to live in peace, happiness and fraternity.

The people of the world are today afflicted by the great satanic powers who prevent the teachings of the prophets from being realized. The Christian clergy have many peculiarities, as the superpowers are Christians or lay claims to Christianity. In contradiction to the words of God the Almighty, the superpowers act against Jesus Christ's teachings. According to the teachings of Christ and the Almighty God, the Christian clergy have a duty to wage a spiritual war against the superpowers

who act contrary to the way of the prophets and the way of Christ.

You went to Behesht-i-Zahra and saw some of the martyrs' graves. Wherever you go in Iran, you will see such graves. You have not seen our wounded. Everywhere in Iran you will see people who have lost their limbs or have been injured under the old regime and are unable to lead normal lives. I wish you Christian clergymen could stay in Iran for a while and travel to various towns, villages and hamlets to see the results of the crimes committed by the deposed shah who was supported by American presidents. I wish you could go and see the crimes of those imposed on us by U.S. presidents.

But you can see what they did to our youths in underground cells just because our youth wanted independence for the country. Time is lacking now for even a brief account of the crimes they committed against our youths. Suffice it to say that they amputated the limbs of many of our youths, they charred or broiled many others, and cut off the limbs of many children in front of their parents so that the parents would confess. They did things which it would be shameful to tell. They did all this on the grounds that they were commissioned by the big powers, that they had a mission to fulfill in this country. They committed crimes here and put the blame on the U.S. government for what they did. They did things to foul the name and holiness of Jesus Christ in the eyes of the people. Christian clergymen have a responsibility to rescue Jesus from this entanglement to which your

presidents have brought him. Jesus looks to Christian clergymen and scholars. He is looking at you with intent eyes to see what you will do with these cruel people who acted like this towards others.

Have you ever brought up or discussed such crimes in your churches? Has the Pope ever done anything about these crimes? Has the Pope condemned us because we have kept the hostages? Does the Pope know what jobs these people had? Is it in keeping with the dignity of a clergyman to condemn an oppressed nation? Would it be justified to condemn a nation which was under the yoke of governments which only apparently adhered to Christianity? Did any person among the Christian clergy ever protest against the cruel crimes which were committed in Iran?

On the occasion of the birthday of Jesus Christ, we wrote an article about the crimes which had been committed in Iran, but to our regret we heard that the Pope would not approve the printing of our article. Why should the Christian clergy have such an attitude towards the oppressed peoples?

Why should the followers of the gospel of the Lord Jesus condemn us, and why should they be biased towards acts of cruelty? Are you not aware that they have plundered the wealth of this country? And that they have left behind a hungry nation? Do you not know that they subjected this nation to oppression and torture over a period of 50 years and that they robbed her whole wealth to pay the big powers? Does the Christian clergy not know that in blatant violation of the teachings of

the prophets and of Jesus, Mr. Carter has frozen the assets of Iran in all banks? Do you realize how they want to exert pressure on an oppressed nation? Do you know that by his proposal for economic sanctions, Mr. Carter intends to kill a nation of 35 million by starvation.

Is the Pope aware of all this or has he been misinformed about events in Iran? If he is, it is a misery for us, for the Christian world and for the Christian clergy, and if he is not, it is a disgrace for the Vatican. Why should you people who have come here not give an account of the issues here as you see them? Would the Vatican not rely on your words? Would the Vatican only accept reports from the big powers?

Are you aware of the U.S. mass media's war against us? Do you realize that all this propaganda in the United States is precisely against the demands of the oppressed people in the world? But you say it is not your responsibility to prevent all this misleading propaganda. The Pope apparently is not responsible for checking the acts of those who are waging war against us with their pens and by other practical means. If this is not his responsibility, then whose is it? Whoever on the earth should propagate Christianity? Whose duty is it to teach people the gospel?

But the sufferings here are varied and many, and time is lacking for us to investigate the pains and afflictions of the oppressed nation. But I would like to send a message to the American nation, to the clergy in the United States and to the Christian clergy through you. I call on you all

to save Christianity, to save the oppressed masses now, at this moment when the Messiah and Christianity are facing a challenge and so is the Pope.

On this holy day, which should be a day of peace, the U.S. President has started wars everywhere. He suppresses the oppressed while the Christian clergy are silent onlookers. May God Almighty save mankind from the evils of those who act against the Divine teachings, against the teachings of the Kingdom of Heaven and may God Almighty rescue the oppressed from the claws of the oppressors.

Peace be upon you, and the Mercy and Blessings of God.

December 27, 1979

**POPE'S MESSAGE TO IMAM
KHOMEINI**

His Eminence
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

I open my heart in full sincerity to express to you my deep concern at the increase of tension between the United States of America and your country.

I have also made these sentiments known to His Excellency Bani Sadr, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, and to the Honourable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America.

I offer fervent prayers to Almighty God that, in His goodness and mercy, He may protect the people of your noble country and prevent greater difficulties and dangers from arising in an area where there are already other grave reasons for tension. It is my lively hope that your authoritative influence will help a solution to be found for the serious situation, that solution that will be fair, that will be inspired by respect for the dignity of the peoples concerned, and that will be beneficial for the advancement of those peoples and of mankind as a whole in justice and peace.

Joannes Paulus PP.II
11 April 1980

IMAM REPLIES TO THE POPE'S MESSAGE

**In the Name of God
the Compassionate, the Merciful**

His Excellency, Pope

Your Excellency's message expressing anxiety over the worsening of the relations between the Moslem country of Iran and the United States has been received. I appreciate Your Excellency's good will and draw your respected attention to the point that our militant, noble nation took such cutting-off of relations as a good omen and celebrated it with rejoicing and illuminations. I thank you for your prayers to Almighty God for our militant people, but should note that Your Excellency should not be worried about the greater and more dangerous problems mentioned in your message, because the Moslem nation of Iran welcomes the problems which may result from the cutting-off of relations and is not afraid of greater dangers. That day will be dangerous for our people on which relations such as those existing during the former treacherous regime are re-established, but—God willing—they will not be re-established. I want Your Excellency, in view of the spiritual influence you have among Christian people, to warn the U.S. government of the consequences of its tyrannies,

imposition of force and plundering, and advise Mr. Carter, who is confronted with final defeat, to treat the nations which want absolute independence and do not want to be affiliated with any power in the world, according to humane criteria, to follow the teachings of Christ (may God's blessings be on him) and not expose himself and the U.S. government to further scandal.

I pray to Almighty God for the prosperity of the oppressed of the world and hope they may be freed from the hands of the oppressors.

Ruhollah Al-Musavi Al-Khomeini
April 16, 1980

THE POPE'S SECOND MESSAGE TO IMAM KHOMEINI

His Eminence, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini,

I, most sincerely, try to be well-informed of the transformations in the affairs of the honorable Iranian people through the Catholic church.

During the course of the discussions we had in the Vatican with Ambassadors of various countries of the world, we took advantage of the opportunity and openly mentioned the glorious history of Iran and the humanitarian manner of the Iranian people; we expressed our best wishes for Your Excellency's long life and for the well-being, success and peace of the Iranian nation. These sentiments stem from faith which, today, should urge Moslems and Christians, through mutual understanding and friendly relations, and inspired by the principles of their own faiths, to unite in the defense of the principles of justice, just as they share a common belief in just one God.

Thus, we are sure that your spiritual influence among the Iranian people and the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, will help the Catholic residents of Iran to live peacefully, enjoy good treatment, and be allowed to continue performance of their religious and cultural ceremonies and affairs of which the greatest part is accepted

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and respected by your people.

The orders Your Excellency will issue in this case, will be of great value in promoting friendly relations between Moslems and Christians of the world.

I pray to the Almighty God for the prosperity of the Iranian people and for peace.
With all the due respect to His Eminence,

Joannes Paulus PP.II
August 4, 1980

IMAM'S REPLY TO POPE'S MESSAGE

In the Name of God
the Compassionate, the Merciful

This is the second time that the Pope has sent me a message. The first time was in connection with that 'Nest of Spies'. Our young men informed us that the U.S. embassy was not an embassy at all and that the people there were not diplomats but spies in an espionage center. Their presence was harmful to our country and I informed the Pope at the time.

He has now sent a messenger with a letter to their school, called the Andisheh School and asked us to let the school continue to operate. We are not enemies of the Christian, Jewish or other groups of the nation, and we do not stop them working in so far as they are schools. And for education, even if they work for Christian or other groups, if we understand that such schools in Iran act in other ways, like that nest of spies, we cannot tolerate them. Of course it is the duty of the government to consider this problem. If they are merely schools there is no prohibition, otherwise our nation cannot tolerate them. I must say to the Pope through you, and ask him if he is uninformed of the actions of those who call themselves Chris-

tians or whether he knows but pays no attention. Does he know that we lost everything under 50 years of British and American domination? The domination of British through Reza Khan and that of the British, the Americans and the Russians through Mohammad Reza? Does he know about our young people who are demanding justice and calling attention to the oppression of our nation? They have been arrested and sent from one jail to another, they have been bound by chains and their ribs have been kicked in. They are now under the heel of Carter, the executioner. How can I tell my nation that Christian clergy are in the service of the superpowers? I am sorry that I can't reply to my nation.

If I defend the Christian clergy there will be criticism. Why did the Pope make no comment when our young people were killed on the streets? Why does he show such discrimination? Does Christ teach discrimination? Does Christ act well towards the rich and badly towards the oppressed? Do you know what they did to our country? Did you hear the voice of our oppressed nation or do you only listen to the cries of tyrants? Do you know about the behaviour of the U.S. police towards our young boy and girl students? Are you aware that when some traitors in America were going to demonstrate against our oppressed nation, the U.S. police protected them but when Moslem students were going to have a demonstration to complain about the oppression of our nation, what the U.S. police did to them?

Does the Pope know that our young boys and

girls are chained, that they have broken ribs and some of them are unconscious? Is he concerned about these problems? He knows about Christ's behaviour towards people? Why does he not send a message to Carter? I wish you could be sent to Carter with a letter from the Pope.

I know that whoever follows Christ should be the protector of the oppressed, and should fight the superpowers, just as the followers of Islam should fight them and release the oppressed from their claws. Why doesn't the Pope speak one word about the situation of these young girls and boys I am talking about who are imprisoned and under torture? Why does he not ask these people who call themselves Christians and members of Churches, why they do such things? how can I reply to the oppressed people when they ask us why we defend these clergymen who don't say a word against the superpowers and the oppression, even of the American people? No words are said and no message is sent. But when we capture the nest of spies and their guilt is evident, he sends a messenger and a letter and now when it is a question of their school, (I know nothing about it, but some people have been there and say it is a center not of education, but of other activities) again he sends me a letter. We are not against science, we are not against schools, we are not against Christian or Jewish or Zoroastrian schools. But if the schools carry on other activities, we cannot tolerate them. First he must send people to visit these schools, see their conditions and inquire why our government could not tolerate them. Of course that is up to the

government. But what I want to tell the Pope is that he should change his policy and ask the people who have put our young boys and girls in solitary confinement why they have done so? I have never heard of the Pope defending oppressed people in Iran or America.

Give him my greetings and ask him to devote himself to the oppressed and plundered, those who are under the heels of the oppressors. You should defend our young girls and boys who are now under the executioner's boots, and order your followers to release them. We cannot go under the domination of the U.S. again. Even if the U.S. kills our entire nation, it cannot come back here to look after its own interests, and put our nation under torture and despotism. The nation of America should know that it is too late for America to come back to carry out its devilish plans. The Pope should criticize America for its behaviour towards human beings, and ask it not to oppress them. Human beings are God's creatures who are God's servants, (the Pope should tell America) not to tyrannize God's people. Such oppressions should stop. I hope that the Pope will act according to his religious and Christian duties and stop these American executioners and police. We till the end will stand against America and will not let the Americans or those who follow them come back here again. Our nation is ready to defend until its last breath. We won't go back under oppression. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

August 5, 1980

IMAM'S MESSAGE TO POPE JOHN PAUL II THROUGH HIS ENVOY

**In the Name of God,
the Compassionate, the Merciful**

If other authorities had sought a meeting with me at this critical juncture in order to discuss the matter, I would not have granted their request. I have acceded to this particular request, and I am indeed glad that the Pope has sent me a message, for it gives me an opportunity to bring certain matters to his attention. There is a question in the minds of mine and my people, and indeed in those of all oppressed peoples, whether Moslems or Christians or the followers of other faiths, and I would like to voice this question now.

The ears of thirty-five million Iranians, who suffered, for fifty years beneath the yoke of imperialism and repression—particularly American imperialism, most recently under the direction of Mr. Carter—as well as the ears of millions of oppressed people throughout the world, have constantly been straining to hear some expression of sympathy on the part of the Pope, or at least some indication of paternal concern for the state of the oppressed, coupled with an admonishment of the tyrants and

oppressors, or a desire to mediate between the oppressed peoples and those superpowers that profess to be Christian. But our ears have never heard any such expression of sympathy or concern. Our people were massacred for fifty years, and the best sons and daughters of our nation were thrown into inhuman prisons where they died under brutal tortures, yet the question of mediation never arose, nor did it ever occur to His Eminence, the Pope, to show any concern for our oppressed people or even to mediate with the plea that oppression cease.

Yet now they wish to mediate, now that the young people of our nation, after long years of oppression and misery, have decided to hold, in that nest of spies, a few individuals who were spying on our nation and conspiring against it, or rather, against the whole region.

The proofs of their activity are extremely numerous, but the greatest proof is the fact that they reduced to powder, as far as they were able to all the files and equipment they had. If those files and equipment had been of a purely diplomatic nature and not related to conspiracies against our people, there would have been no need for their destruction.

Now that the existence of a conspiracy has been proven to our nation, it unanimously supports the action of our youths (only a few perverted individuals do not support it). Their action represents the will of the entire nation, not the arbitrary whim of a small group.

It is a truly humanitarian desire that conspiracies directed against human welfare, against our

Moslem countries and Iran in particular, should be uncovered; it is also the right of our people to have them uncovered. Embassies have no legal right to engage in espionage or conspiracy, but this place, as far as our experts have been able to determine, was a center for espionage and a center for conspiracy. How is it that it has now occurred to His Eminence, the Pope, to entertain the humanitarian impulse of intervening with us to make sure we do not mistreat those detained there?

Islam treats its enemies well, and our Moslem youths have treated them well and humanely, as far as I have heard, there is no cause for anxiety. As for their release we must see what we want to do, what the nation wants to do. Is the desire of our nation illegal or inhuman? Is the act of our youths in occupying this center and preventing the conspiracy from being implemented a humane or an inhumane act?

What our nation wants is for that man who is now in the U.S. under whom it suffered for about thirty-seven years, who betrayed it continuously for thirty-seven years, who deprived our young people of freedom for thirty-seven years, who stifled our country and people with his all-embracing repression for thirty-seven years, who killed many people with his own hands or had them killed under his direction on Khordad 15, and whose orders since then resulted in the killing of more than one hundred thousand people and the wounding and maiming of hundreds of thousands of others—what our nation wants is for that criminal under whom it has thus suffered to be returned to face a just

trial.

If he is found guilty, the money he has stolen from us should be returned. Huge amounts of money have been taken out of the country by him and persons associated with him and now fill the banks in America and other Western countries. People of my age know, and those younger than us have heard from others or read in history, that when his father enacted his coup d'etat, he had nothing. He was an empty-handed soldier when he gained control of this country, but immediately, he began to confiscate the property of the people. He gained title to the best and most fertile land in Mazandaran, in the north of our country, by means of force and the pressure his agents exerted. Many who owned land, as well as many religious scholars who expressed themselves on the subject, were arrested, imprisoned, and sometimes killed.

I myself remember the massacre enacted in the time of Reza Shah at the Gauhar Shad Mosque in Mashad. People of my age remember how this mosque, this center of Moslem worship and prayer, was assaulted and how a number of victims of oppression who had sought refuge there were massacred. When Reza Shah left Iran—or more accurately, when he was expelled—he stuffed as many of the crown jewels of Iran as he could into his numerous suitcases, only to have the English steal them from him on the high seas!

Then his rule came to an end and his son succeeded him—that is, the allies imposed his criminal son upon us, despite our unwillingness to accept him because of what we had suffered under his

father. Since he owed his throne to the allies, he was obliged to put blindly at their disposal whatever they asked for. We have no time to enumerate all the acts of treachery he committed during his period of rule. We can give only a few examples of his so-called service to this country, in reality the mission entrusted to him by the allies. His mission became essentially to purchase arms and equipment from America in exchange for the oil he exported there, in order then to use the arms and equipment on their behalf and to build up bases for them! He gave them our oil and then built bases for them with the money he received!

The acts of treachery he committed during these last ten to fifteen years in particular—the slaughter and imprisonment of our young men and women—are too numerous to recount. During this period, we would have liked some foreign spiritual authority, particularly the supreme authority of the Christians, to have shown some concern for our defenseless people. I cannot believe that the Vatican was unaware of what was happening, and if our people ask me whether the Vatican was in agreement with all the crimes that were being committed, I will not know what answer to give them.

The Christian clergy know that the Noble Quran champions Jesus and Mary, the virtuous and chaste, and explicitly defends Mary against various unjust accusations. Indeed, the Quran goes so far as to champion the scholars, monks and saints of the Christians. This being the case, we would have welcomed a soothing expression of concern on the part of His Eminence, the Pope, or an attempt by him

to discover why our nation has acted as it has. Let him ask Carter why he enabled a man like the Shah to keep ruling us; let him inquire of Carter why he has brought to America, under his protection, the man who blatantly committed so many crimes and acts of treachery for more than thirty years, and why he now wishes to hatch conspiracies with that man.

I am not surprised at Carter's antics, because he is a politician—not in the sense of healthy politics, but rather the sort of politics that Carter and his kind understand. He is willing to do anything—to commit any crime, to try any trick—in order to protect his personal interests, or what he imagines are the interests of his nation. His real concern is to prevent certain matters from becoming known by means of the people our youths are now holding.

But why is the Pope concerned? Why does he wish to intervene with an oppressed nation that wishes to uncover some small portion of the miseries it has suffered and thus enable other oppressed people to understand how they are being caused to suffer? If we were able to put this treacherous oppressor on trial in another country and bring before a foreign court all the manifold evidence of his criminal wrongdoing, we would certainly take the initiative in doing so. But it was here that he committed his crimes, here that all the relevant dossiers are to be found, and here that several million witnesses against him reside. He oppressed the peasants, he oppressed the workers, he oppressed the religious scholars, he oppressed the university students and teachers: all of them are our witnesses. We cannot

possibly transport more than twenty million of our citizens abroad to testify against him.

In view of the respect we entertain for the Pope, however, we are ready for him, if the Shah is brought to Iran, to delegate whomever he wishes as representatives to observe the trial. The Shah could be tried in the presence of not only the Pope's representatives, but also those whom anyone else cares to send, even Carter, our worst enemy. The nation and I would abide by whatever verdict the court delivered.

The Pope should realize that this is not a question I can solve personally. I have no authority to impose anything on my people, for Islam does not permit me to act as a dictator. I follow the wishes of the people and I am bound to comply with whatever the people decide in this matter. As a servant of the nation, I may advance some humble request every now and then, but the solution of this matter does not lie in my hands. It lies in the hands of the people, and the people have declared their support for this act. As you may know, the radio has been reading out messages of support from different groups of people, and the messages are so numerous that it becomes tedious to listen to them.

In any event, our demand is a humanitarian one, dictated by the concern for humanity that is a characteristic of our Moslem nation. Since you profess Christianity, you too ought to follow Jesus Christ and become humanitarians. The same love of humanity that inspired Jesus Christ now impels our nation to demand an investigation of the Shah's crimes, with a particular view to discovering

who it was that encouraged him in the commission of his crimes. It is thus that the world will come to know who the enemy of humanity is. Who was it that made the Shah devote all his power to the oppression of his people, commit all sorts of crime, and plunder our natural resources? If the answer to this question is known, it will be a salutary lesson for all people.

What conclusion, then, does the Pope wish to draw? I request him to contact Carter, who appealed to him, so that the whole matter may be investigated. Let the whole matter be explained, both here and abroad, and let them send their representatives. Then the Pope will have to decide whether it was just and proper for our people to be oppressed in this way, for all those massacres to be enacted, for the resources of our defenseless people to be plundered and hoarded in foreign banks, so that numerous city-dwellers, even here on the edge of Tehran, continue to go without housing, food, and work (of course, it is just possible that the Pope has not been informed of these things, in which case I am informing him now). Now, if despite all this, the Pope still feels we should arrange for the departure of those detained at the nest of spies without the Shah's being surrendered to us and without their agreeing to his being placed on trial, then let him announce this quite unambiguously. Naturally, we do not expect him to make such an announcement, for as a human being, he must be opposed to crimes such as those the Shah committed.

Our cause, in any event, is a legitimate one. It

is intolerable for us that out of all the places in the world, the Shah should be taken to America, to be close to Carter. They have taken our criminal away from us and are keeping him. Hand the man over to us—that man who slaughtered our young people, who tortured them by burning them and sawing off their feet! Hand him over to us to stand trial! He will have a fair trial that can be attended by representatives from abroad. If what we say is untrue, let him come back and mount the throne again and all the people will obey him! But if it is the Shah and Carter that have spoken and acted unjustly, then use your moral influence to call Carter to account.

The Pope should realize that certain people claim to be Christians while acting in a manner contrary to the precepts of Jesus Christ, and they succeed in deceiving some of their own people. The Pope should show some concern for the honor of Christendom; if the policies of those individuals are carried out in the name of Christ and Christianity, the name of Christianity will be tarnished. The Pope should show some concern for all the oppressed people and their view of Christianity, and he should proclaim to all Christendom the crimes that Carter has committed and reveal his true identity to the world, just as we did with Mohammad Reza. Of course, our people knew the true nature of the Shah, but we still exert ourselves to make sure that no doubt remained. If the Pope acts in similar fashion, we will be grateful to him.

As an oppressed nation, we request of him, then, that he save Christianity by condemning

those leaders of the great powers who commit crimes while claiming to be Christian and acting in the name of Christianity. This is not good. Their conduct is not beneficial for Jesus (upon whom be peace) and it harms the reputation of all Christians. Let me inform the Pope that if Jesus Christ were here today, he would call Carter to account and deliver us from the clutches of this enemy of humanity. Since the Pope is the representative of Jesus, he must act in the same way that Jesus would. May God Almighty acquaint us all with our religious and divine duties so that we may become champions of the oppressed.

We hope that the Pope will show some concern for the state of our oppressed people and forgive us for being unable to comply with all his requests. As for his first request, concerning good treatment of those detained, the prisoners are already enjoying good treatment, and I would like you, as the Pope's representative, to go see them in order to inspect their living conditions and talk to them. Have no anxiety that they are being mistreated.

Of course, Carter is trying to do a number of different things; he is grabbing for anything, like a drowning man. First he tries to intimidate us with the threat of military intervention, and then he talks of imposing an economic embargo.

Unfortunately, a certain individual (who calls himself an Iranian and even says, "I am an Iranian before I am a Moslem" although it is uncertain that he is either Iranian or Moslem) is requesting that Carter impose an economic embargo on Iran. This individual, who is now living in England, claims to

**IMAM'S ADDRESS TO VARIOUS GROUPS
INCLUDING IRANIAN ARMENIANS**

In the Name of God,
the Compassionate, the Merciful

Monotheistic divine schools of thought have always existed among the human beings since the creation of man but have not been implemented in an appropriate way due to the obstacles created by the oppressors. This is especially true for the religion of Jesus Christ which has suffered from many distortions and has been attributed with false things that are not becoming of the Christ. And worse than all are monarchs who have claimed to be Christians but in practice proved the contrary and, in fact, prevented Jesus Christ's teachings to be materialized. If the teachings of prophets such as Jesus Christ, Moses and Mohammad were carried out among Christians, Jews and Moslems in appropriate ways we would not be faced with the present difficulties prevailing everywhere. Now you are witnessing the crimes of big powers while resorting to Christianity and claiming to be Christians. The same is true of the heads of Islamic countries; they are also committing crimes under the name of Islam. You also witnessed that Mohammad Reza pretended to be Moslem and

would print Qurans and would claim adherence to Islam but you all saw what he did. Carter does the same in Christianity and commits tyranny and cruelty in the world contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Religions, from the very beginning of their creation, have been faced with such devils. At present we have an Islamic country in its true sense and if Islam is materialized you will see how kind and tolerant it will be towards Christians and followers of other religions. If, God willing, Islam is realized in Iran and other places tyranny will be eliminated, aggression will vanish and governments cannot impose further oppression on the people. Pray that all those who are busy with acts of sabotage around our country and do not have faith in any religion be corrected or be destroyed. A sound Islamic system will be materialized which will be both in your interest and in the interest of humanity.

In reply a representative of the Armenian community told Imam Khomeini that they had been prepared, as the Imam had ordered, to join the oppressed people of Iran to abolish imperialism the No. 1 enemy of the Iranian people, and thus will not avoid any sacrifice in that respect. He also announced preparedness of the Armenians in participating in jihad against illiteracy, and reconstruction jihad to put an end to cultural ignorance and economic backwardness.

January 6, 1982

۲۲ مہم ۹۹ ۲۳ دسامبر ۷۸ سب بربرجہ لرحم

صلوات و سلام خداوند بزرگ بر حضرت عیسیٰ مریم روح پریم و بیکم عظیم است کہ در مکانی را احیا
بخلاف آن را باید از خود صلوات و سلام خداوند بزرگ بر ما عظیم است نیز مریم خدا را و صمد خدا را
کہ با نغمہ الهی جنین فرزند بزرگ را بدست خلقی رحمت الهی تسلیم نمود درود بردہ بخون و جہ و در جہانی
کہ بتعالیم عیسیٰ مسیح نیز سرکش را با آرا می دعوت میکنند درود برست ادا و مسیح آفاق کہ از تعالیم آفاق
عیسی روح پر بر خود دارند ما ہم ملت نفعہ ایران از ثلث مسیح بنواہم کہ در دوزخ و آتش کہ خود بخت ما
کہ از حق بختی تمیز نماند و بکینہ در فرج آفاق را از خداوند بزرگ بنواہیم بن از ثلث بنواہم کہ در آن
مستقر نشود و مسیح را کہ با قدرت بیبدی خدا از حق ہمکل شنبہا میکنند و حق را در زبرشت رطم خود میکنند
ہمراہیہ و آواز و تعالیم حضرت مسیح آتش کشیدن در روحانیت مسیح بنواہم کہ سران فخر کشند و سر
قدتہ را نصیب میکنند و شنبہا آواز از کرکشت تعالیم اولاغ خود و تقبیغ نمایند قرآن کہ ہم
حضرت مسیح را بخلعت یاد نمود و حضرت بریم و اتزنیہ فرود بخت مسیح است کہ دین خود را بخت مسلم
ادا کنند و ہلیم روح... در فرج



A Son Eminence
AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINY

Votre Eminence connaît l'esprit de profond respect et de sympathie avec lequel le Saint-Siège suit les vicissitudes du noble Peuple Iranien. J'ai eu l'occasion de le déclarer publiquement dans un Discours aux Ambassadeurs accrédités au Vatican, en rappelant sa "glorieuse histoire et ses traditions humanitaires" et en formulant "les meilleurs vœux pour sa vie, sa tranquillité et son progrès".

Ces sentiments sont dictés par la conviction sincère que, spécialement dans le monde contemporain, Chrétiens et Musulmans doivent être animés par la compréhension mutuelle et l'amitié, et en s'inspirant des principes de leur religion respective, être solidaires dans la défense des bonnes causes, de la même manière qu'ils sont unis dans l'adoration du Dieu Unique, Père et Juge de tous les hommes.

C'est pourquoi je ne doute pas que Votre Eminence, grâce au grand prestige spirituel dont Elle jouit auprès du peuple et des responsables de la République Islamique Iranienne, voudra faire en sorte que les Catholiques qui habitent dans ce Pays puissent y vivre en paix et que les "hommes de religion" chrétiens puissent recevoir un traitement digne de la mission qui leur est confiée et poursuivre leur œuvre religieuse et éducative, comme ils l'ont fait jusqu'à maintenant, dans le respect des convictions islamiques de la majorité du Peuple qui les accueille, de ses valeurs culturelles et de ses choix politiques. L'action que Votre Eminence voudra exercer dans ce sens sera de grand prix pour un progrès toujours accru des bons rapports entre Chrétiens et Musulmans dans le monde.

En présentant à Votre Eminence mes sincères salutations, je prie le Dieu Tout-Puissant qu'Il veuille concéder au noble Peuple Iranien sagesse, prospérité et paix.

Du Vatican, le 29 Juillet 1980

Joannes Paulus P. II

11 April 1980.

His Eminence
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

I open my heart in full sincerity to express to you my deep concern at the increase of tension between the United States of America and your country.

I have also read these sentiments known to His Excellency Bani Sadr, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, and to the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America.

I offer fervent prayers to Almighty God that, in his goodness and mercy, he may protect the people of your noble country and prevent greater difficulties and dangers from arising in an area where there are already other grave reasons for tension. It is my lively hope that your authoritative influence will help a solution to be found for the serious situation, that solution that will be fair, that will be inspired by respect for the dignity of the peoples concerned, and that will be beneficial for the advancement of those peoples and of mankind as a whole in justice and peace.

JOANNES PAULUS PP. II


